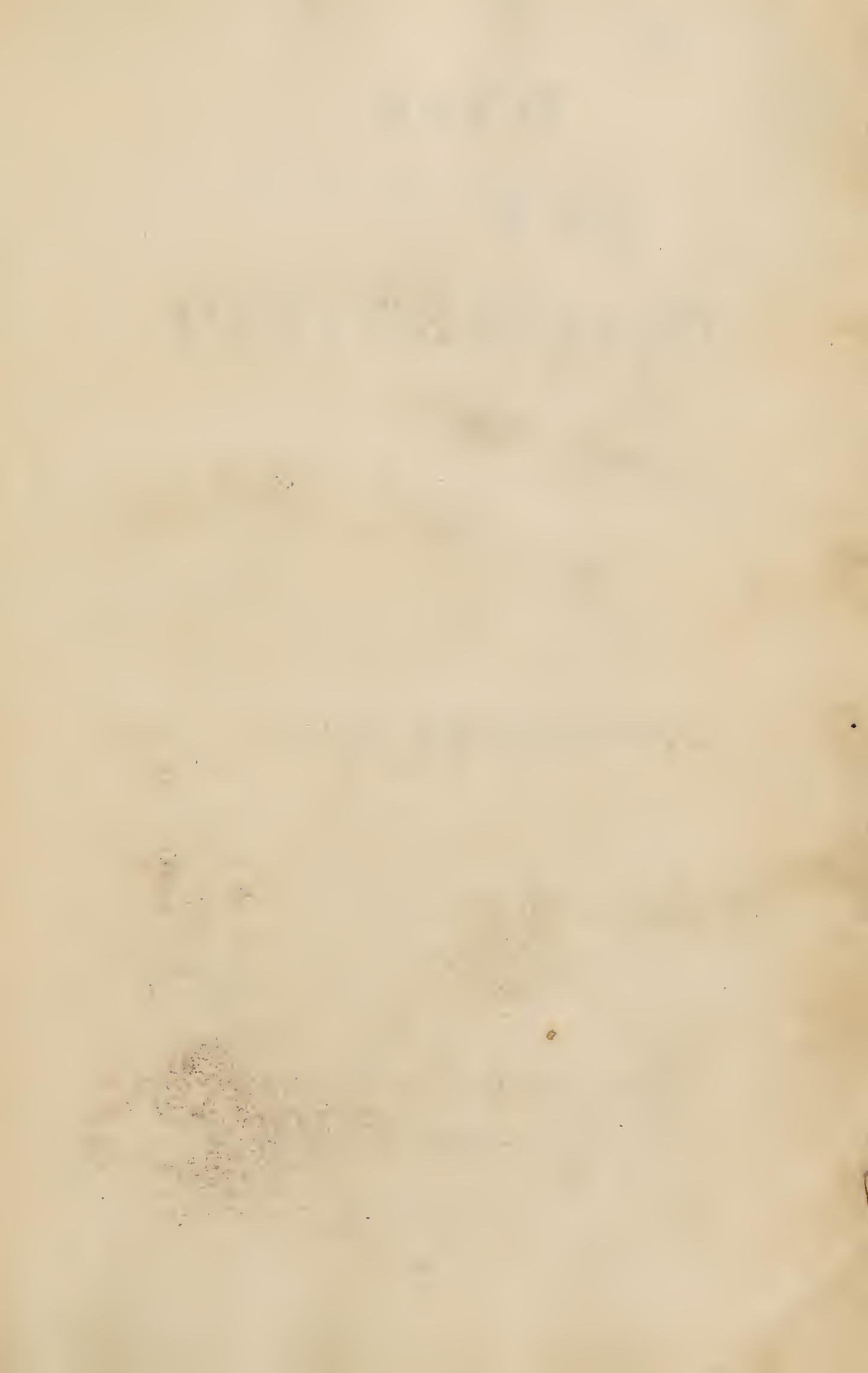


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251

July 25

BATH
PENITENTIARY,
AND
LOCK HOSPITAL.

PRINTED BY RICHARD CRUTTWELL,
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Bath Penitentiary and Lock Hospital.

On Wednesday, June 12, in pursuance of public advertisement, a Meeting was held at the Guildhall, for the purpose of forming an Establishment in this City to extend medical succour to every class of those outcasts of society, to whose moral reformation only were the funds originally limited. JOHN PARISH, Esq. being called to the Chair, addressed the Meeting in nearly the following words :—

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ IT is scarcely necessary to remind you, that the favor of your attendance at the Guildhall this day has been solicited, in order to obtain your approbation and support of an Institution proposed to be established in this City, for the benefit, both spiritual and temporal, of a very pitiable class of our fellow creatures. The public papers have already called your attention to a deficiency which still exists among the charities of Bath ; and submitted a plan for supplying it, by extending the sphere of the Penitentiary, and adding thereto a LOCK HOSPITAL, which shall receive a certain number of diseased patients, and administer the means of cure to such cases as it might be improper to admit within the walls of the Penitentiary.

“ It is with justice to those Gentlemen who conducted the Penitentiary to say, that their zeal and discretion, their sacrifice of time and trouble in its management, were self-evident, and that had their funds been equal to their wishes, any alteration in their system would probably have been unnecessary. The narrowness of the finances of the Penitentiary, however, and the multitude of objects to which it was incapable of affording relief, called loudly for interference, and suggested the necessity of adopting some means of checking vice and disease, under a particular form, more extensively than the old Institution could supply.

“ The outline, Gentlemen, of an Institution, which it is hoped will effectual to this purpose, has been formed ; and Mr. Elwin will have the goodness to submit to you the names of those Gentlemen who have consented to fill the various situations, which that Institution will embrace. It only remains for me to observe, that as the range of relief which the plan contemplates, is wide, its expenses will be considerable, and its support must consequently be liberal ; but, on the other hand, it cannot be doubted, that, where the good to be produced is so obvious, and the objects to be relieved so interesting, the claim to such support will be powerfully felt ; and I know my townsmen too well, and particularly those whom I have now the pleasure of addressing, to doubt that their bountiful hearts will gladly bestow what sympathy and benevolence must necessarily suggest.”

Mr. ELWIN seconded the motion ; and, in a most masterly and luminous speech, set forth the views of the Gentlemen who were engaged in the attempt to sustain and extend the Institution. It was not, he said, to be a place where the idle could find ease, and the profligate comfort ; but where those who were excluded from all other means of obtaining decent employment might obtain occupation, in a peculiarly constituted workhouse. It was to be a house of solemn penitence for those who had been seduced from virtue : not indiscriminately open, but limited to the reception of those whom the sagacity of the most enlightened guardians should deem likely to be saved from vice, to be reclaimed to virtue. It was farther proposed, to add a sort of *Lazaretto*, of a kind already well known to the public under the name of *Lock Hospitals*, in London, Manchester, and Liverpool, for the purpose of staying the dreadful ravages of a pestilence widely terrible to all families, and of a nature too disgusting to admit of public detail. He thought it needless to attempt to rouse the feelings of such an assembly as he had then the honor of addressing, by arguments which were no doubt familiar to the minds of all ; and which the writings of many advocates of similar charities had set forth, with the cogency of sound logic, and the eloquence of zealous piety. Having thus stated the views, he should leave the success of the Institution to their generally anticipated liberality.

After much interesting discussion, the Resolutions were read and passed unanimously.

We feel happy in being able to state that in consequence of an application from the worthy Chairman, his Serene Highness Prince LEOPOLD of SAXE COBOURG has signified his ready concurrence in becoming PATRON of the Society.

[Meyler and Son, Printers.



BATH PENITENTIARY,

AND

LOCK HOSPITAL.

IN the course of the year 1816, the situation of the **BATH FEMALE PENITENTIARY** excited the attention of several Gentlemen of that city, who were desirous of seeing the plan extended, and the funds increased, so as to provide for the reception not only of Penitents, but of **Diseased Objects**; since it was conceived, that the impressions likely to be made on a young and not depraved mind, under the sufferings of disease, and with the advantages as well of seclusion from vicious habits and companions, as of the regular admonition and religious instruction to which the Inmates of the House would be subjected, would be of such a nature, as in many cases to

lead to sincere contrition, and lasting reform. So that, of those who were admitted into the Hospital, some, at least, might, in due time, be transferred to the Penitentiary, and ultimately restored to their place in society.

It was not doubted, but such a plan would meet with the sanction and support of the Inhabitants of a city, whose Charitable Institutions are as liberally supplied, as they are judiciously conducted.

The Committee of the Penitentiary, actuated by the most laudable wishes for the improvement of a Charity, which they had most meritoriously conducted under great and increasing difficulties, were equally desirous of placing the direction of it in hands which might obtain from the public a more extensive support.

Several Meetings were held at the house of Mr. PARISH, to whose indefatigable and zealous exertions this Charity is indebted for the distinguished patronage it has received, and the liberal subscriptions with which it has been assisted: when, having ascertained the practicability of enlarging the premises, so as to enable the present House to receive above Twenty, and of adding a Lock Hospital for the reception of diseased applicants; and also, that a Com-

mittee of Ladies could be formed, to superintend the internal direction and management ; the annexed Appeal was made to the public, and widely circulated ; and in consequence, a very numerous and highly respectable Meeting was assembled at the Guildhall on the 12th of June; when Mr. PARISH, being called to the chair, explained to the Meeting the nature and objects of the plan proposed for their consideration. Several Resolutions were unanimously passed, approving the design ; and a Committee appointed, to assist the Trustees in carrying it into execution, under such Rules and Regulations as they should think expedient. And at a subsequent Meeting of the Committee on Saturday the 6th of July, the subjoined Rules and Regulations were unanimously adopted.

The general approbation which has been expressed of the plan, and the liberality with which it has been supported, afford the strongest ground to hope that it may be extended, and permanently maintained, on a scale proportioned to the increasing population of this city ; where the most pitiable of all objects of human wretchedness may be rescued from utter degradation and despair ; where their diseases may find relief, and their penitence an asylum.

TO THE PUBLIC.

THE Charitable Establishments of this City, liberally supplied and judiciously conducted, have, to their eternal honour, applied themselves to the Relief of human Wretchedness in almost every shape. They extend their aid to the Infirm and the Aged—to the Debtor and the Prisoner. They instruct the Ignorant—employ the Idle—heal the Wounds, and cure the Diseases, of the Afflicted,—with a munificence and discrimination, not surpassed by any of the Cities of Europe. No form of misery, SAVE ONE, is unprovided with refuge and relief.

But there is one class of Sufferers for whom no Asylum has yet been provided; who have been left to perish in unassisted wretchedness, which no commiseration could reach, and no bounty relieve.

Yet it may be doubted, if, amongst the various objects of benevolence, there are any who pre-

sent so strong a claim to its interposition, as the unfortunate Girl, who, seduced, but not depraved,—her health destroyed, but her mind not yet vitiated,—finds herself, by the same offence, dismissed from her service, and for ever disabled from finding another. Deterred from returning to her parents, by the dread of the displeasure she has justly incurred,—and bearing about the stamp of infamy and guilt, aggravated by the sensations of horror and remorse, arising in a mind not yet callous to all the better feelings,—she sees herself at once deprived of her home, her character, her health, and her subsistence ; no shelter is afforded her, but the haunts of the most degraded of her sex ; and she sinks at once from seduction to the most abandoned and profligate prostitution, avenging her ruin on its authors by spreading her horrible contagion ; and becomes one of the most pernicious agents in the corruption of the health and morals of the sons, the relatives, the domestics, and dependents of the Inhabitants of this City.

Is there a more just, more wise, or more holy Exercise of Charity, than to interfere between these unfortunates and their utter ruin ;—to offer a refuge from that entire abandonment, into which they must fall, if no such asylum be

be provided ;—and to give them the best chance of regaining their place in society, from which they must otherwise be irretrievably driven.

The very nature of their sufferings, by a singular fatality, alienates and repels the kindly intentions of those, whose habitual benevolence is extended to all other objects of distress. How many feelings of delicacy are to be overcome, how far must charity outgo disgust, before it can encounter the scenes which every where surround the wretched abodes, into which infamy and disease, poverty and prostitution, have thrust their victims. And yet, for want of an adequate place of refuge, no assistance can at present be administered, but under these repelling and disgusting circumstances.

Misery of every other description and degree has, by a natural prescription, at least the privilege of imploring relief, and directly addressing itself to the feelings, the duties, and reflections of mankind; but to these, that last resource of desperate poverty is prohibited. In what form of words could one of these Daughters of Affliction successfully plead for charity in public;—what door would be opened, or what passenger would stay his steps to listen, to such a supplication? And yet no public or general relief is

at present afforded to that which is denied all access to individual feeling and compassion.

In this singular instance, the misery which man causes, he cannot participate in. In every other case the sufferings of the two sexes are in common, and the evils of poverty, remorse, sickness, and death, are visited to each with an even hand ; but the horrors of prostitution are the exclusive lot of her, who has been the victim of passions universally felt, and temptations which the wisest and the best have found it easier to fly from than to conquer ; and who is, notwithstanding, condemned to a severer state of suffering, than is inflicted on deeper crimes and maturer guilt, without an opportunity of repentance, or a hope of reform.

These considerations have determined several Gentlemen on making an appeal to the Humanity and the Justice of their Townsfolk, for the completion of a plan to supply this blank in the Charities of Bath ; in the strong persuasion, that what has been cheerfully granted to every other Object of Compassion, will not be refused to those on whom all the severer calamities of all other descriptions of the poor—the sick—the houseless—and the wretched,—are accumulated.

The **PENITENTIARY**, conducted as it has been with a zeal, economy, and attention, which would have done credit to any Institution, has yet been too limited in its Funds, and consequently too confined in its objects, to produce the necessary degree of relief in a City of this magnitude.—It is proposed to enlarge this Charity to an extent more proportioned to its increased population ; and, for that purpose,

To render the **BATH PENITENTIARY**, which at present can receive but Six, capable of containing Twenty ;—

To add a Ward for the exclusive reception of Diseased Patients ;—and

To administer Medical and Surgical Relief to Out-Patients.

The Patients and Inmates to be received on recommendation of the Subscribers, and the whole Establishment to be under such regulations as shall be formed by a Committee of Superintendance, to be chosen annually by the Subscribers at large ;

The first Committee to be chosen at the Meeting to be held at the **TOWNHALL**, on Wednesday June 12, at One o'clock.

RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR
GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

THE object of this Institution is to combine the advantages of a PENITENTARY, and LOCK HOSPITAL. To receive, in the former, those unhappy Females, who are desirous of quitting their vicious habits: and in the latter, those who are actually afflicted with disorders, in consequence of their irregularities; and also to administer such relief to those who are not admitted within the House, as can properly be extended to them. When received into the House, they are to be maintained and instructed, confirmed in good habits, and accustomed to industrious occupations, till they can be disposed of in service, or otherwise, for their best and permanent

advantage, as opportunities offer ; and which it will be one of the most anxious duties of the well-wishers of the charity, as well as of the several Committees, to search for and provide. When they shall have been restored to society, they will be considered as entitled, on continued good behaviour, to such further encouragement as the circumstances of the Institution shall admit.

In order to maintain this Charity in the state in which it may conduce most effectually to the relief of its immediate objects, and with the greatest discouragement to vice, and the least hazard to public morals, **APPLICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED FROM ALL FEMALES, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, WHO ARE DESIROUS OF PARTICIPATING IN ANY OF ITS ADVANTAGES;** but none will be admitted, except such as shall, on enquiry, be deemed fit objects of relief by the Select Committee of Ladies and Gentlemen.

Applicants are not required to give their names on admission, but may pass under initials, or a number. All questions, after admission, are forbidden ; and the Members of the Committee, making the necessary enquiries previous to the admission of the applicant, are not to make the result public, beyond the necessary communication to the Select Committee.

I.

That this Institution be under the protection of a Patron, President, Vice-President, and Trustees.

II.

That the management and direction of all the concerns and funds of this Institution be confided to a Committee, to consist of not more than thirty, nor less than fifteen, exclusive of the Trustees, Clergy, and officiating Ministers of the different religious persuasions, and the officers of the establishment ; of whom five, including the Chairman, to be a quorum.

III.

That from the General Committee be formed a Select Committee, to consist of the Chaplains, Secretaries, the two senior Trustees, and four others, to be elected from time to time as vacancies shall occur.

IV.

That to such Select Committee be confided the whole of the internal management and direction of the House and Hospital ; the ap-

pointment and dismission of servants; the regulation of domestic expenses; the examination of the different applicants for admission or relief; the admission and discharge of inmates and patients; and the removal of the patients in the Lock to the Penitentiary, as they shall see occasion.

V.

That a Ladies' Committee, of the number of six, be associated with the Select Committee in the discharge of their various duties.

VI.

It is considered impracticable to lay down positive Rules for the Admission or Rejection of Applicants, without incurring the hazard of excluding deserving objects by too strict a regulation, or of encouraging vice by an indiscriminate admission of those who might resort to the Hospital, merely for the purpose of relieving themselves from disease, that they might the sooner return to their vicious habits. It is, therefore, confided to the judgment of the Select Committee to admit or reject, as they shall think fit; with the following suggestions

for the execution of this very important and difficult duty.

That every encouragement and facility should be given to *applications* for admission, and the most speedy enquiry made into the cases ; and for that purpose, that a book be kept at the House, in which every application shall be entered, by the Matron, in the form annexed. And that a public notice be affixed in some conspicuous part of the building, expressive of the nature of the establishment ; and that application for admission may be made, from eight till six, at the House.

That as far as the funds of the Charity will permit, and the accommodation of the House will allow, it will be advisable rather to admit, than reject, applicants, who afford the most distant hope of ultimate reform or amendment ; and to afford relief, also, rather upon an extended than a contracted scale, the limit of which must be the discretion of the Select Committee, with a due regard both to the moral effect, and to the funds, of the Charity. And, it is hoped, that, by the judicious management which may be expected from a zealous and active Committee, there may be a progressive removal from the Out to the In Patients, and

from them to the Penitentiary ; so that the medical relief afforded in the first instance may lead to ultimate penitence and reform.

VII.

That no person be admitted a second time to any relief from this Charity, except on such special circumstances, as, in the opinion of the Select Committee, shall warrant such relief.

VIII.

That the General Committee meet on the first Wednesday in every month, at one o'clock, or oftener, on the request of the Trustees, Select Committee, or of ten Subscribers ; seven days notice to be given of such meeting, and the object thereof expressed in such notice.

IX.

All questions to be decided by a shew of hands, or ballot, if required. The Chairman to have the casting vote.

X.

That at such monthly meeting the Register-Book and Accounts be examined ; the necessary directions given for the issue of money for the

ensuing month; and all business relating to the interests of the Charity discussed and arranged.

XI.

That the Select Committee do keep a register of all their transactions, especially of all applications made, and the reason for acceptance or rejection; and that such account be laid before the General Committee at every monthly meeting, together with an account of the expenditure of the preceding month.

XII.

That the Treasurer do keep a true account of all monies received and paid by him, and lay the same before the General Committee at every monthly meeting.

XIII.

That no money be issued but on the draft of two of the Trustees, and in conformity to the directions of the General Committee, at a monthly meeting, or a special meeting to be called for that purpose.

XIV.

That the Chaplains, or one of them, do perform divine service at least once on every Sunday,

and on Good Friday, and Christmas Day; and that he do enter upon a regular and uninterrupted course of religious instruction of the inmates and patients, on which the attainment of the objects of the Charity must mainly depend.

XV.

That the Surgeon do attend the patients regularly; and that a book be kept at the House, in which his directions shall be entered for the treatment and diet of the patients, that the same may be the better observed by the Matron and Nurses.

XVI.

That an Annual Meeting of the Subscribers be held on the first Wednesday in the month of March, in every year, when the state and progress of the Institution, and of the funds thereof, shall be laid before them.

XVII.

No alterations shall be made in the Rules and Regulations, except at a special meeting to be convened for that purpose, of which seven days notice shall be given, and the object of the meeting expressed in such notice.

XVIII.

That on every vacancy in the Select Committee of Ladies and Gentlemen, the remainder will recommend a successor, to be appointed by the General Committee, who may, nevertheless, if they shall see occasion, desire another recommendation to be made; and so on till a fit person be appointed.

XIX.

That all vacancies in any of the offices of Chaplain, Physician, Surgeon, or other officer of the establishment, be supplied by the General Committee.

FORM OF REGISTER.

Date of Application.	Name, or Initials, or Number, of Applicant.	Age.	Place of Birth.	Occupation and Residence.	Reasons for Admission or Rejection.

RULES FOR INTERNAL MANAGEMENT.

1. The Select Committee of Ladies and Gentlemen shall meet weekly, or oftener, if occasion shall require, and receive the reports of the weekly visitors; and determine on the adoption or rejection of applications for relief, and on all business connected with the internal management of the House.

2. There shall be a distinct Ward for Probationers; and no woman shall, on reception, be permitted to associate with the others, but be kept as separate as circumstances will allow.

3. That for the purpose of enquiring as speedily as possible into applications that may be made for admission, either to the **LOCK** or **PENITENTIARY**, Weekly Visitors shall be appointed by rotation from the Select Committee, who shall report to the Weekly Meeting; and who may, in the mean time, direct immediate reception in urgent cases.

4. Other Weekly Visitors from the Select Committee shall be appointed, for the inspection of the House, and the regulation and direction of the internal management, and to see that the directions of the Select Committee are observed ; who shall report weekly to the Select Committee.

5. The Select Committee will, at their weekly meetings, give such orders and directions, as they shall from time to time think fit, for the diet, work, and employment of the inmates, and generally for the regulation and improvement of the establishment ; and enter the same on their minutes.

6. All Females admitted to any relief from this Charity, may be distinguished by a number, in all cases, after the first enquiries have been made.

7. Any Woman, upon petition or application to the Matron, or to the Committee of Ladies, stating her name, age, and last place of abode, shall be admitted into a Temporary Ward ; and if, upon enquiry, any two Ladies shall think her eligible, she shall be received into the Probationary Ward, first promising conformity to the Rules of the House.

8. The time of probation shall be two months ; at the end of which time she shall be fully ad-

mitted into the House, with the approbation of the Select Committee.

9. No woman, after she is received, shall be allowed to go out of the premises, until discharged, but on very urgent and extraordinary occasions ; and then, not without leave of two of the Ladies of the Committee, to be preceded by a request, in writing, signed by the Matron. And even when such leave shall have been obtained, no woman shall be allowed to go out, unless accompanied by a trust-worthy female.

10. On the full admission of any petitioner, her apparel shall be converted into suitable garments, under the direction of the Ladies' Committee; but during her probation, her own apparel shall be ticketed and laid by, in order to be returned in case of non-admission ; but in no case whatever to be returned, after having been fully admitted.

11. The Ladies of the Committee will superintend the employment, diet, and dress of the women; they shall also examine their work, and endeavour to lead them to habits of industry and virtue.

12. Every woman shall, upon full admission, be presented with a Bible and Prayer-Book, and shall be permitted, when discharged, to take them away.

13. A Book shall be kept of the kind and quantity of Work, of the time employed thereon by each woman, and of the profits arising therefrom; which book shall be examined by the Ladies every week.

14. The Ladies' Committee shall endeavour to procure for the women, or suggest, such work, as shall best qualify them for service; and exert themselves to procure proper situations for them, when discharged.

15. The Women in rotation, and according to the discretion of the Matron, shall have the care of the Kitchen; and each, in rotation, shall, in like manner, have the care of the public rooms, wards, Matron's rooms, and stairs. Each compartment in the dormitory shall be cleaned by the woman who sleeps in it.

16. Each female to sleep in a separate bed.

17. They shall attend Family Worship morning and evening; and, after the time of going to bed, no fire or candle shall be allowed in the House, except in the Matron's room, or in case of sickness.

18. From the first of April to the first of November, they shall rise at six, and go to bed at ten; from the first of November to the first of April, they shall rise at seven, and go to bed at ten.

THE MATRON.

1. The Matron shall be examined and recommended by the Ladies of the Committee, previously to her being finally elected by the Select Committee. She shall reside in the House; and direct the economy of it, under the superintendance of the Select Committee.

2. The Matron shall read the Rules of the House to every woman the next morning after her full admission; deliver her a copy; and take care that the same shall be read once a month in each ward.

3. The Matron shall read a suitable Prayer, and a chapter in the Bible, every morning and evening at eight o'clock.

4. The Matron shall make a Report, weekly, of the deportment of every person residing in or attending the House, to the visitor for that week; who shall present the same, or incorporate it in the Report, to the Select Committee.

5. The Matron shall not follow any other business or employment whatever. She shall visit the rooms frequently; observe the general

deportment of the women, and the progress of their work. She shall receive the materials for work, and attend to the same being safely returned when the work is finished.

6. The Matron shall instruct all the Penitents in Reading, Needle-work, &c.; and the women shall be by her kept diligently employed, in work suitable to their abilities, and best adapted to qualify them to support themselves hereafter.

7. The Matron shall report, from time to time, to the Select Committee, what articles of wearing-apparel, linen, &c. &c. are required for the House, and which one of the Ladies of the Committee will undertake to purchase.

8. The Matron shall take charge of all the linen committed to her care by the Ladies; and also keep the clothes of the women, and deliver them out as they shall be wanted: she shall receive the provisions and stores allowed for the House, taking care that they are of due weight and measure; that none are carried away or wasted.

Signed,

JOHN PARISH, Chairman.

DONATIONS

And ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Donations.	Ann. Sub.
CORPORATION of BATH	— 50 0 0	
The President, LORD GWYDIR	— 50 0 0	... 5 0 0

At Sir B. Hobhouse and Co.'s Bank.

Earl Manvers, by Mr. Boord	50 0 0	... 5 0 0
Colonel Fleming	— 50 0 0	... 5 0 0
Mr. Parish	—	50 0 0
Sir John Parish, of <i>Senftenberg</i>	— 10 0 0	... 1 0 0
Richard Parish, esq; <i>Hamburg</i>	— 10 0 0	... 1 0 0
Charles Parish, esq; ditto	— 10 0 0	... 1 0 0
David Parish, esq; <i>Philadelphia</i>	— 10 0 0	... 1 0 0
George Parish, esq; ditto	— 10 0 0	... 1 1 0
Mrs. Hamilton, <i>Glasgow</i>	— 5 0 0	
Charles Phillott, esq;	— 25 0 0	
Gerald Fitzgerald, esq;	— 20 0 0	
Hastings Elwin, esq;	— 10 0 0	
S. Barwell, esq;	— 10 0 0	
Colonel Dumbleton	— 10 0 0	
Earl of Carysfort, by Mr. Parish	— 10 10 0	
Rev. Charles Russell	— 10 0 0	
J. S. Duncan, esq;	— 5 0 0	... 1 1 0
P. B. Duncan, esq;	— 5 0 0	... 1 1 0
A. Jaffray, esq;	— 5 0 0	... 1 1 0
J. Watinesley, sen. esq;	— 5 0 0	
Colonel Thomas Shaw	— 5 0 0	... 1 1 0

		Donations.	Ann.	Sub.
James Bush, esq;	—	5 0 0	...	1 1 0
J. Uhthoff, esq;	—	5 0 0		
Charles Conolly, esq;	—	5 0 0		
Mrs. Hopton, <i>Edgar-buildings</i>	—	5 0 0		
Mrs. Barnard, <i>Green-Park-place</i>	—	5 0 0		
Lord John Thynne	—	5 0 0		
Colonel Palmer	—	5 0 0		
Mrs. Prideaux	—	5 0 0		
W. Goodden, esq;	—		5 0 0	
Hon. Mrs. Strange	—	4 4 0	...	1 1 0
Baldwin Leighton, esq;	—	3 0 0	...	1 1 0
Jabez Mackenzie, esq;	—	3 0 0	...	1 1 0
Edward Forbes, esq;	—	3 0 0	...	1 1 0
Mrs. Hammett	—	3 0 0	...	1 1 0
Thomas Hayes, esq;	—	2 2 0	...	1 1 0
Rev. James Haviland	—	1 0 0	...	0 10 0
Mr. Thomas George	—	2 0 0		
Henry Deacon, esq;	—	2 0 0	...	1 1 0
William Surtees, esq; of <i>London</i> , by				
Mr. Parish	—	2 0 0		
Miss Garratt, <i>Milsom-street</i>	—	1 1 0	...	1 1 0
Colonel Pine Coffin	—	1 0 0		
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Printed by Richard Crutwell, St. James's-street, Bath.



